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DEPT FOR OES/OFA

USDOC FOR NMFS/NOAA (BILLY, F/UD-2, AND NORDSTROM, F/UD-1)

E. O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: UVIP, EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: SENATOR CHAFEE CALLS ON JAPANESE FISHERY
- OFFICIALS

1. SENATOR CHAFEE MET BRIEFLY ON JANUARY 14, 1982 WITH TWO JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AKIRA MATSUURA, AND NIPPON SUISAN PRESIDENT SHUNICHI OHKUCHI.

2. DURING HIS MEETING WITH JFA D-G MATSUURA, SENATOR CHAFEE CALLED FOR INCREASED EFFORTS BY JAPANESE INDUSTRY FOR OVER THE SIDE JOINT VENTURE PURCHASES OF ATLANTIC SQUID FROM U. S. FISHERMEN AND SOUGHT JFA SUPPORT IN URGING JAPANESE INDUSTRY TO CONTINUE SUCH PURCHASES. HE NOTED U. S. EAST COAST FISHING INTERESTS HAVE SUGGESTED MAKING SURIMI FROM RED HAKE AND SOUGHT JFA ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING JAPANESE SANITARY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD COVER IMPORTS OF RED HAKE SURIMI INTO JAPAN. FYI, FISHATT BELIEVES THAT THE NMFS REPORT ENTITLED "A SURVEY OF

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

82 7849169 SUP

PAGE 002
TOR: 210923Z JAN 82

NC 7849169

JAPAN'S IMPORT REGULATIONS ON FISH AND SHELLFISH PRODUCTS" BY DR. SUNEE C. SONU, DATED APRIL 1, 1980, WILL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ON IMPORT REGULATIONS CONCERNING SUMIRI. END FYI. MATSUURA SAID THE JFA WOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED JOINT VENTURE PURCHASES OF SQUID FROM U. S. FISHERMEN, NOTING THAT BOTH SQUID AND BUTTERFISH HAVE GOOD MARKETS IN JAPAN. MATSUURA SAID JAPAN'S SQUID FISHERY IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC DEPENDS ON A SUFFICIENT BY-CATCH ALLOCATION OF BUTTERFISH. HE SAID THE 1981 FISHING SEASON U.S. BUTTERFISH ALLOCATION HAS ONLY BEEN 199 METRIC TONS (MT) TO DATE, AND CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN THE BY-CATCH ALLOCATION, SUGGESTING 800 MT AS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED. SENATOR CHAFEE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. MATSUURA ALSO NOTED THAT PERMITS FOR JAPANESE LONGLINERS IN THE ATLANTIC HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED FOR 1982, DUE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH LEVELS RAISED AT THE RECENT ICCAT MEETINGS, AND ASKED FOR THE SENATOR'S CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER.

3. SENATOR CHAFEE'S MEETING WITH OHKUCHI PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR NIPPON SUISAN TO CONTINUE ITS JOINT VENTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC. OHKUCHI SAID NIPPON SUISAN DESIRES TO CONTINUE ITS JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SQUID AND SAID THAT BUSINESS CONTRACTS SHOULD BE COMPLETED EARLIER THIS YEAR THAN IN '80, NOTING THE 1981 CONTRACTS WERE NOT SIGNED UNTIL MAY AND THAT THE BEST SQUID FISHING IS FROM MAY - SEPTEMBER. OHKUCHI ALSO CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN THE BUTTERFISH BY-CATCH ALLOCATION FOR THE SQUID FISHERY AND SAID THE MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED IS 2,000 MT. OHKUCHI SAID THAT NIPPON SUISAN IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING BUTTERFISH FROM U. S. FISHERMEN, BUT THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME PROBLEMS IN SMALL SCALE U. S. FISHERMEN MAKING DELIVERIES WELL OFFSHORE DURING THE WINTER FISHING SEASON. HE SUGGESTED THAT JAPANESE VESSELS RECEIVE BUTTERFISH CLOSE TO SHORE (DISTANCE NOT SPECIFIED), SO U. S. VESSELS WOULD NOT HAVE TO MAKE LONGER DISTANCE RUNS DURING WINTER WEATHER.

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

82 7849169

SUP

PAGE 003

NC 7849169

TUR: 210923Z JAN 82

4. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE NMFS
(TOM BILLY, F/UD-2) PROVIDING SENATOR CHAFEE'S STAFF
FISHERIES SPECIALIST WITH A COPY OF THE 1980 NMFS
REPORT ON JAPANESE IMPORT STANDARDS.

CLARK

END OF MESSAGE

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